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Letter dated 3 August 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 3 August 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tuluy TANÇ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 3 August 1998 from the Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 19 July 1998 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot delegate at the United Nations, which contains false and misleading accusations against my country, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (A/52/989-S/1998/671).

At the outset, I wish to remind the Greek Cypriot delegate, who depicts the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as a "secessionist entity" or "occupied part of the island", that the only occupation in Cyprus is the 35 year-old usurpation and continued occupation by the Greek Cypriot side of the seat of government of the bi-communal Republic of Cyprus established under international treaties in 1960. The Greek Cypriot side has no right to question the legality of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which was established through the free and democratic will of the Turkish Cypriot people.

The Greek Cypriot delegate also cites the visit to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus of His Excellency Mr. Mesut Yilmaz, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, and other high-level officials, which took place at the invitation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on the occasion of the 20 July celebrations marking the twenty-fourth anniversary of Peace and Freedom Day.

I wish to stress that the relations between Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are deeply rooted in a common history, culture and kinship and are based on mutual recognition. Turkey, as one of the guarantor powers of the 1960 partnership republic, has provided effective security guarantees for the Turkish Cypriots in the face of the long-standing hostile and aggressive actions of the Greek Cypriots. Prime Minister Yilmaz's visit to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus with other high-level Turkish officials on the occasion of the 20 July celebrations, in the context of the special relations that exist between the two countries, is a clear sign of Turkey's continuing commitment to the security and well-being of the Turkish Cypriot people.

The clamour created by the Greek Cypriot side over the visit, therefore, is totally unwarranted and originates from its untenable claim to be the sole sovereign authority over the entire island and the desire to totally isolate the Turkish Cypriot people, which constitutes the real provocation and an obstacle to a settlement. It should be recalled that the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus frequently hosts high-level delegations from Greece, the most recent occasions of which being, among others, the visit of Mr. Constantinos Stephanopoulos, the Greek President, from 25 to 28 June 1998, and that of Mr. Athanios Tzoganis, the Greek Army Chief of Staff, from 22 to 24 April 1998.

In connection with the unwarranted charges concerning the participation of vessels and aircraft from Turkey in the above-mentioned ceremonies, I would like to reiterate that flights by Turkish aircraft within the airspace and flight

information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is a matter that concerns the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Turkey as two sovereign independent States which recognize each other. Similarly, the navigation of ships in the territorial waters of the Turkish Republic of Norther Cyprus and the use of port facilities take place with the full knowledge and consent and, in this case, upon the invitation, of the appropriate authorities of the State. The Greek Cypriot administration has no jurisdiction, control or authority whatsoever over the national territory, airspace or flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

It is regrettable that the Greek Cypriot side is relentlessly pursuing a campaign of harmful rhetoric, coupled with an intensive and dangerous militarization. Clearly, the Greek Cypriot side is not yet prepared to come to terms with the existing realities and the concept of a new partnership settlement based on the existence of two sovereign States on the island. We hope that the Greek Cypriot side will drop its current hostile posture, so that common sense and realism may prevail, thus opening a window of opportunity for a peaceful settlement.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus